

CLAIMS

1. An instrument panel supporting member structure comprising:

a main body constituted by a pipe which is arranged in a lateral direction and whose ends are connected to right and left front pillars;

a steering bracket positioned on a driver's seat side for supporting a steering column;

a bracket connected to a dash panel; and

a stay positioned substantially on a central portion and connected to a floor part;

wherein the pipe constituting the main body is integrally formed with joining parts by crush-molding, the joining parts being joined to the front pillars.

2. The instrument panel supporting member structure according to claim 1, wherein the cross-sectional rigidity of the pipe constituting the main body is set in the range of $E I = 2.0 \sim 3.0 \times 10^8 \text{ (N} \cdot \text{cm}^2\text{)}$ in which E denotes a Young's modulus and I denotes a cross-sectional secondary moment, and the joining parts formed by the crush-molding on the both ends of the pipe are respectively connected to the front pillars by bolts or welding, the connection pitch being set at $\pi \cdot d/2$ or less in which d denotes a diameter of the pipe.

3. The instrument panel supporting member structure according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the stay is formed with a

cross-sectional U shape, and the stay is installed at an inclination with respect to the vertical direction so that the upper end of the stay connected to the member main body is positioned closer to the driver's seat than the lower end of the stay connected to the floor part.

4. The instrument panel supporting member structure according to claim 3, wherein a reinforcing member is connected between a point in the vicinity of the upper end of the stay and a point in the vicinity of one of the steering brackets on the member main body.

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